US010773373B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Vela

(10) **Patent No.: US 10,773,373 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent: Sep. 15, 2020**

(54) **TOOL WORK BAG APPARATUS AND METHOD**

(71) Applicant: **Michael Anthony Vela**, Pasadena, TX (US)

(72) Inventor: **Michael Anthony Vela**, Pasadena, TX (US)

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 38 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **16/179,898**

(22) Filed: **Nov. 3, 2018**

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2020/0139534 A1 May 7, 2020

(51) **Int. Cl.**
B25H 3/00 (2006.01)
E06C 7/14 (2006.01)
B66F 13/00 (2006.01)

(52) **U.S. Cl.**
CPC ***B25H 3/00*** (2013.01); ***B66F 13/00*** (2013.01); *E06C 7/14* (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**
CPC ... B25H 3/00; E06C 7/14; E06C 7/146; B66F 13/00
USPC 206/349, 372, 373
See application file for complete search history.

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

6,766,881	B2 *	7/2004	Carty	E06C 7/14 182/129
8,177,029	B1 *	5/2012	Norton	B25H 3/02 182/129
8,844,717	B1 *	9/2014	Ross	B25H 3/00 182/129
2005/0189388	A1 *	9/2005	Godshaw	A45C 3/00 224/607
2005/0224392	A1 *	10/2005	Perry	B65D 85/20 206/750
2006/0144732	A1 *	7/2006	Kaplan	B25H 3/00 206/349
2009/0277937	A1 *	11/2009	Sabbag	B25H 3/00 224/236
2016/0375574	A1 *	12/2016	Reinhart	B25H 1/12 269/16
2017/0188674	A1 *	7/2017	Dotey	A45C 7/0095

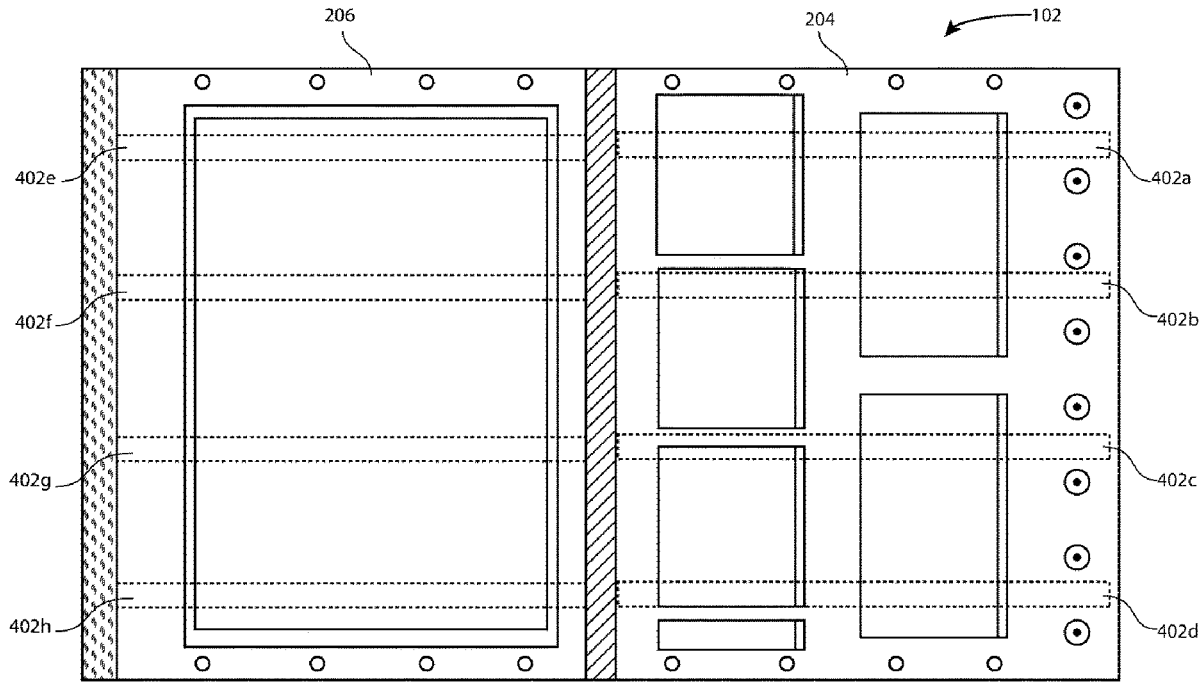
* cited by examiner

Primary Examiner — Rafael A Ortiz
(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Darryl Edwin Scott

(57) **ABSTRACT**

A mountable fabric having a first fabric section having a first fabric end, and a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end. The fabric having a fabric seam coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section. The fabric having a plurality of pockets coupled to the first fabric section. A first locking mechanism secured to the first fabric end, and a second locking mechanism secured to the second fabric end, wherein when the mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam the first locking mechanism is couplable to the second locking mechanism.

7 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



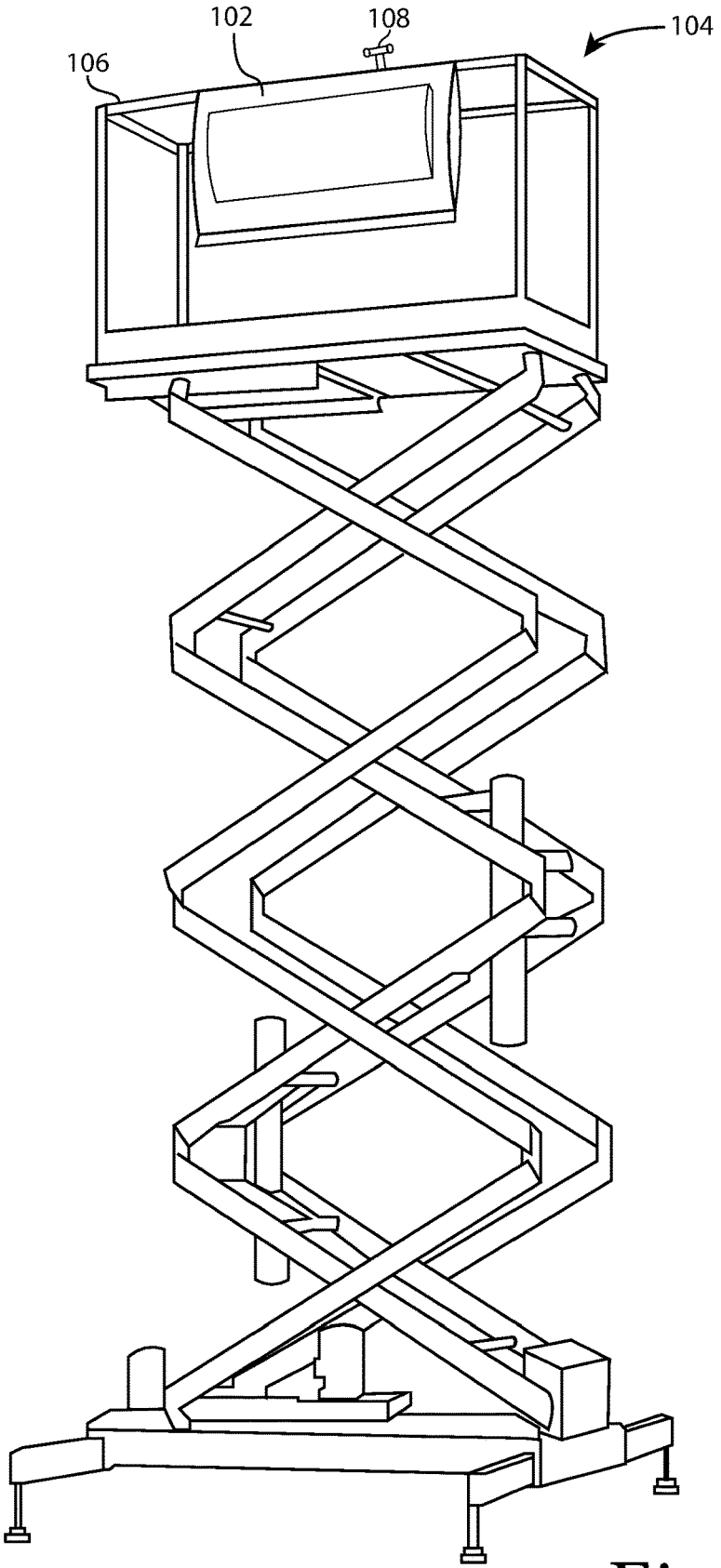


Fig. 1

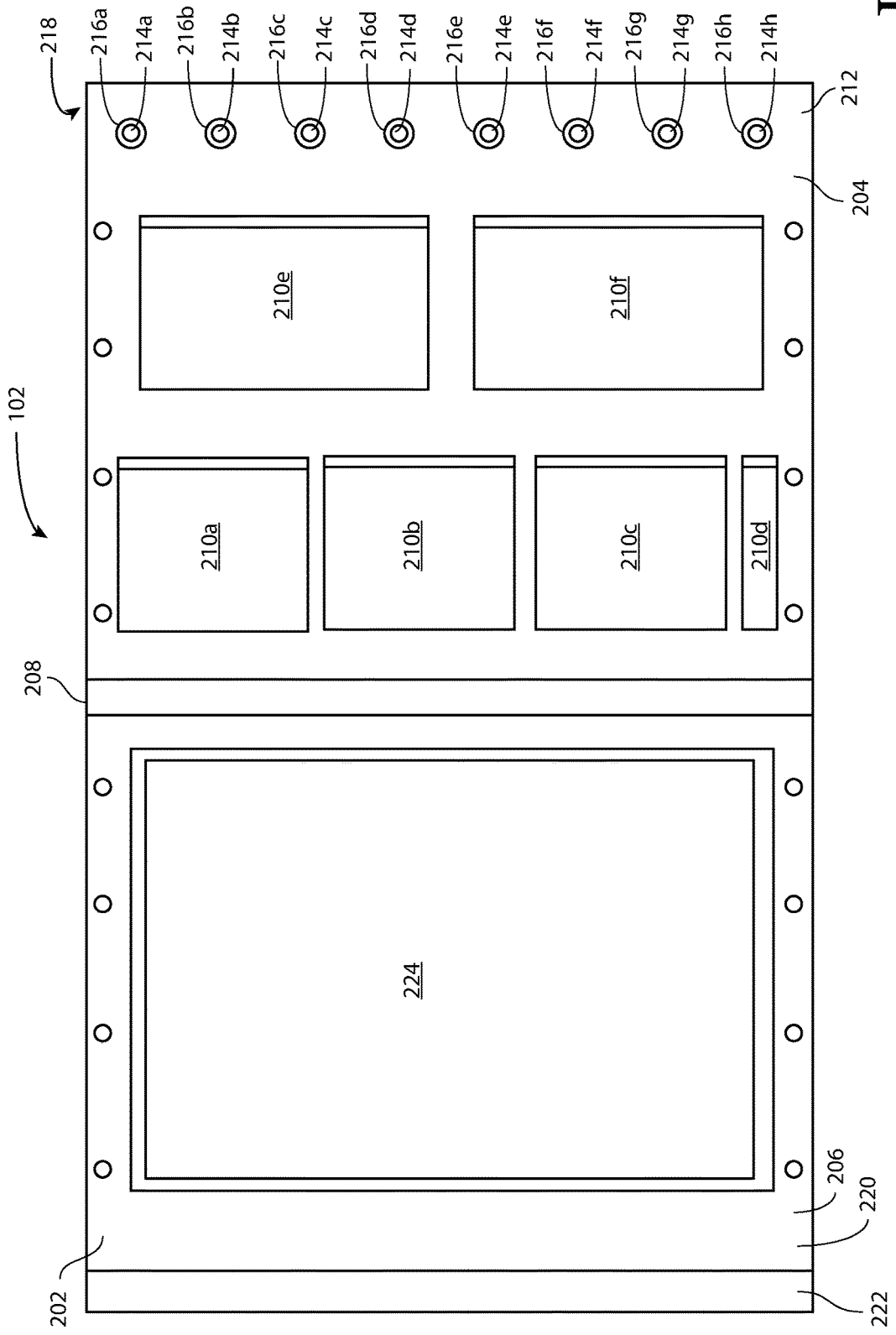

218
216a
214a
216b
214b
216c
214c
216d
214d
216e
214e
216f
214f
216g
214g
216h
214h
212
204
210e
210f
102
210a
210b
210c
210d
208
224
206
220
202
222

Fig. 2

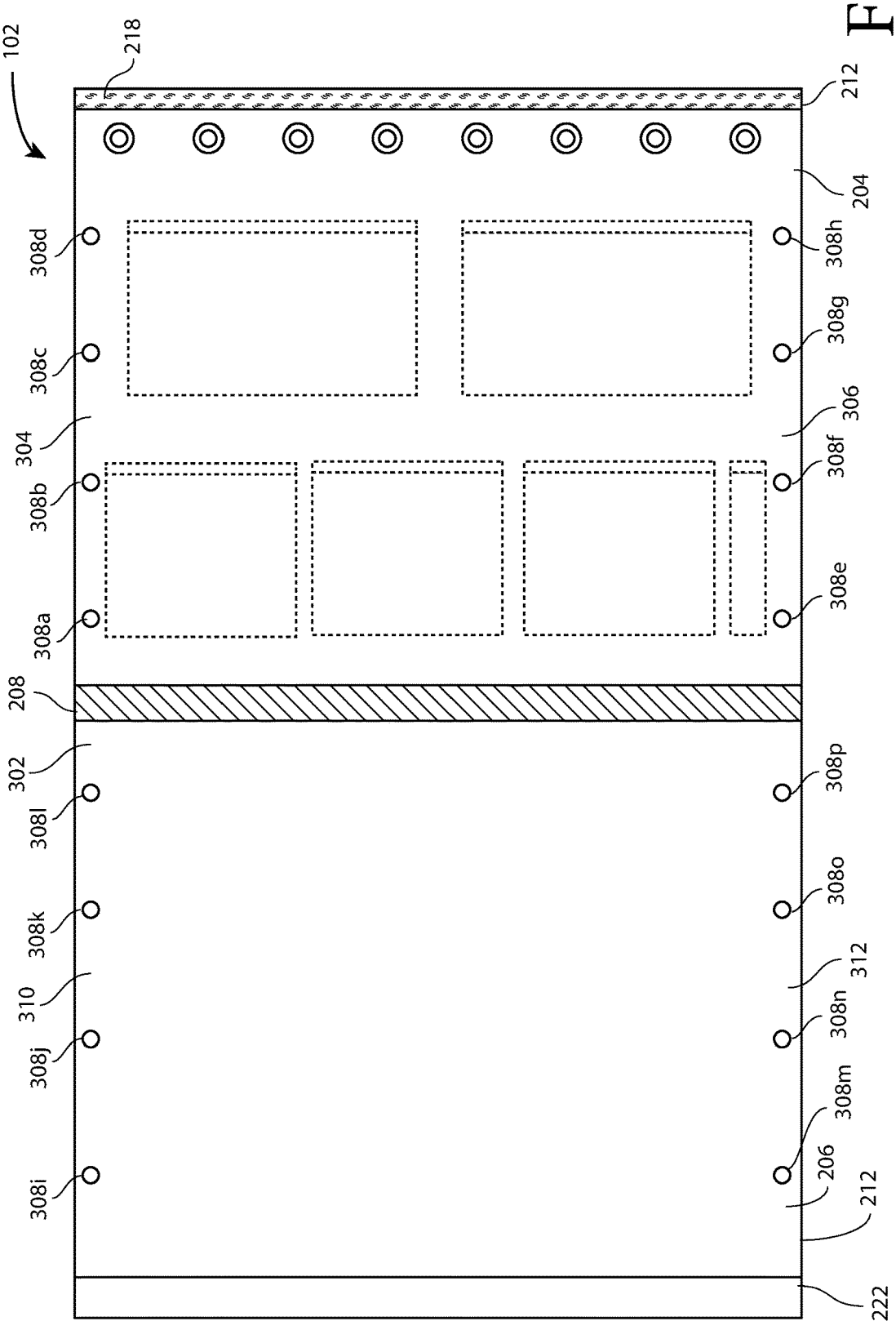

102
218
212
204
308d
308h
308c
308g
304
306
308b
308f
308a
308e
208
302
308l
308p
308k
308o
310
312
308j
308n
308i
308m
206
212
222

Fig. 3

Fig. 4

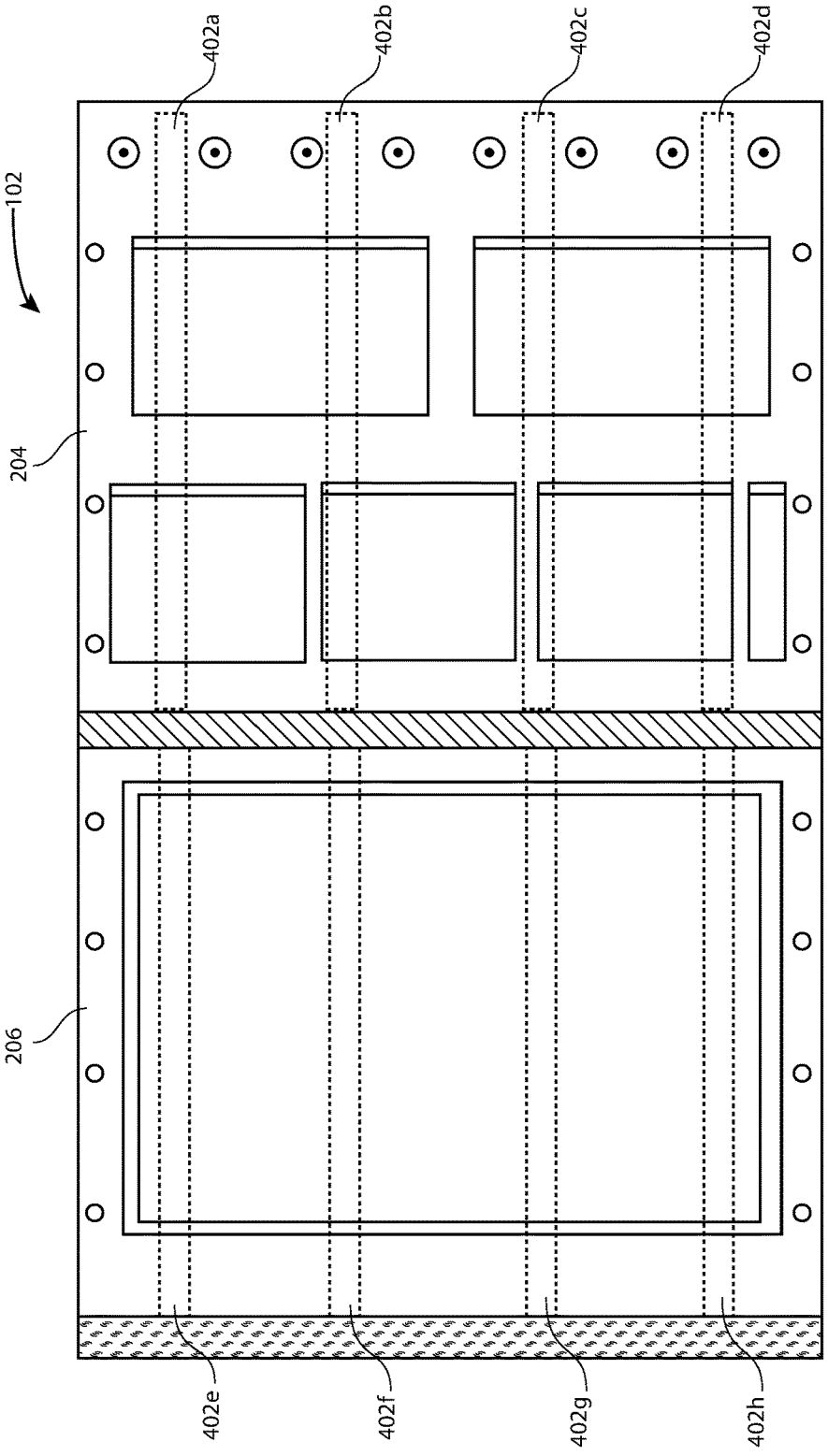
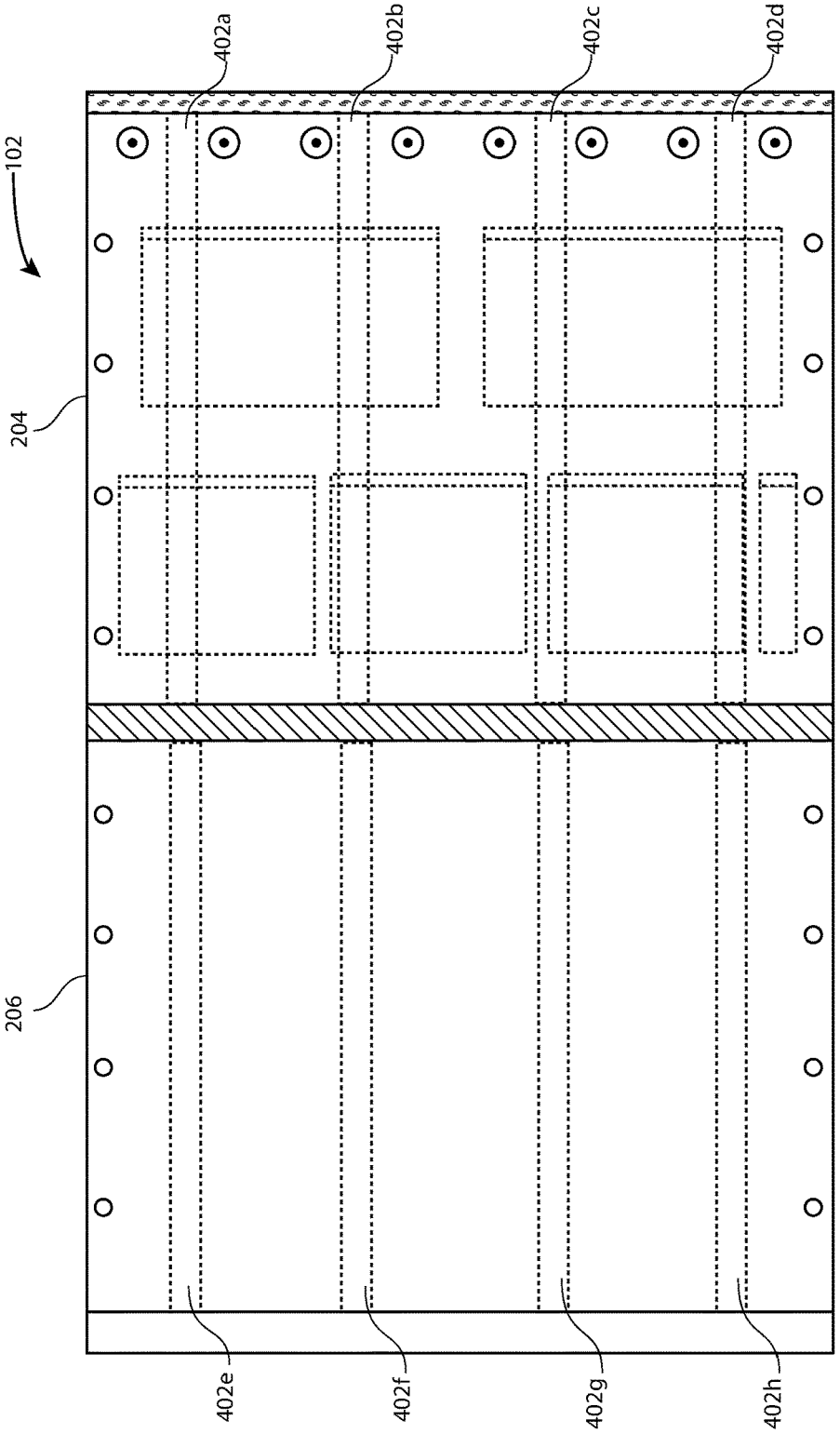


Fig. 5



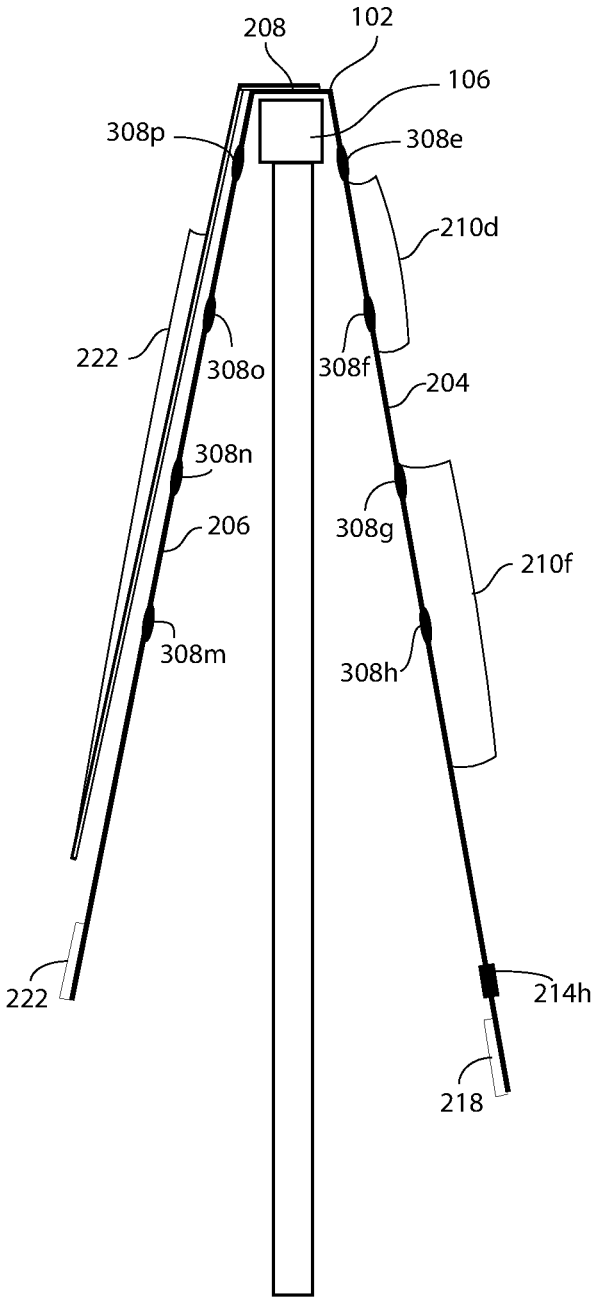

208
102
106
308p
308e
210d
222
308o
308f
204
308n
308g
206
210f
308m
308h
222
214h
218

Fig. 6

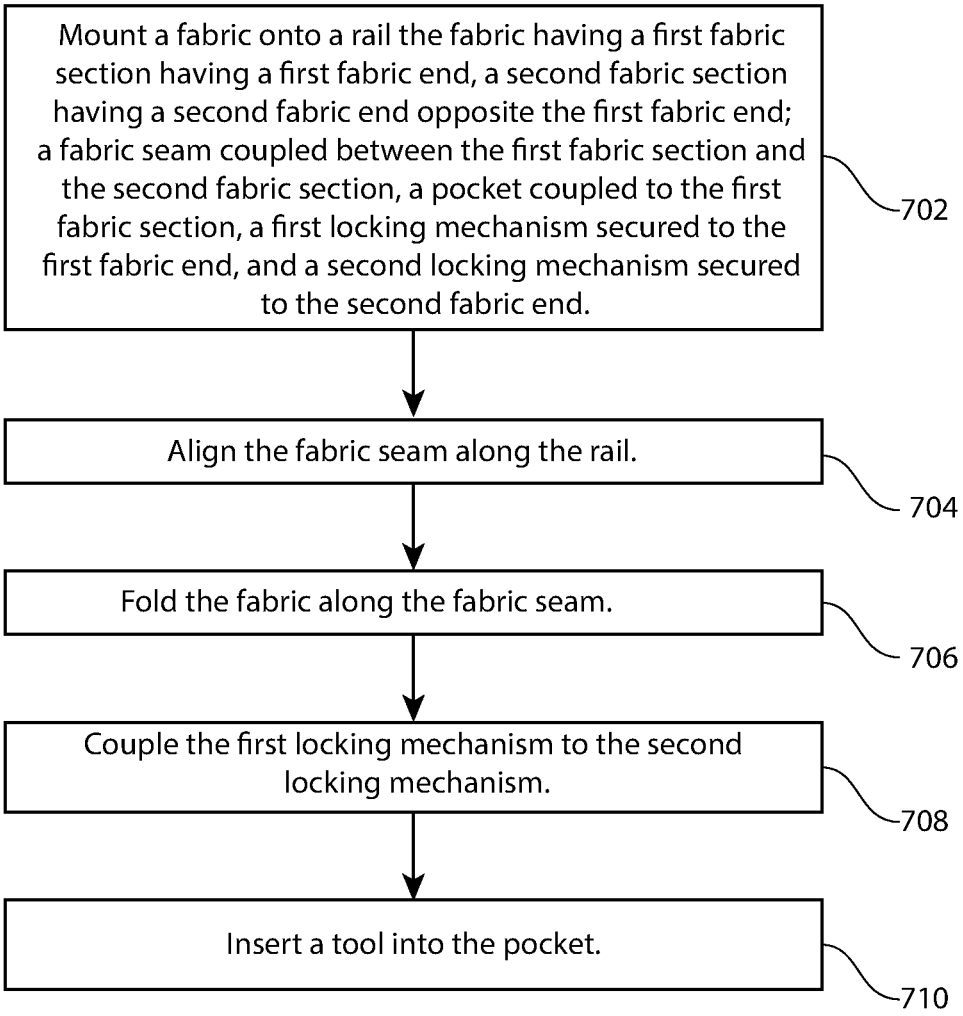

Mount a fabric onto a rail the fabric having a first fabric section having a first fabric end, a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end; a fabric seam coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section, a pocket coupled to the first fabric section, a first locking mechanism secured to the first fabric end, and a second locking mechanism secured to the second fabric end.
702
Align the fabric seam along the rail.
704
Fold the fabric along the fabric seam.
706
Couple the first locking mechanism to the second locking mechanism.
708
Insert a tool into the pocket.
710

Fig. 7

TOOL WORK BAG APPARATUS AND METHOD

BACKGROUND

Construction and manufacturing workers require accessibility to specific tools for specific tasks. In many instances, tools are inaccessible because of limited mobility and spatial constraints within the work environment, such as, for example an aerial platform lift. Requiring the worker to constantly maneuver to access tools in a limited workspace can be difficult and counterproductive. Having ergonomically accessible tools in a limited work environment is a challenge.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a mountable fabric coupled to an aerial platform lift.

FIG. **2** is a plan view of a front side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket.

FIG. **3** is a plan view of a rear side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket.

FIG. **4** is a plan view of a front side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of rigid strips, a plurality of pockets, and a detachable transparent pocket.

FIG. **5** is a plan view of a rear side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of rigid strips, a plurality of pockets, and a detachable transparent pocket.

FIG. **6** is a profile view of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket mounted on a rail.

FIG. **7** is a flow chart of the method of mounting a fabric onto a rail.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The following detailed description illustrates embodiments of the present disclosure. These embodiments are described in sufficient detail to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to practice these embodiments without undue experimentation. It should be understood, however, that the embodiments and examples described herein are given by way of illustration only, and not by way of limitation. Various substitutions, modifications, additions, and rearrangements may be made that remain potential applications of the disclosed techniques. Therefore, the description that follows is not to be taken as limiting on the scope of the appended claims. In particular, an element associated with a particular embodiment should not be limited to association with that particular embodiment, but should be assumed to be capable of association with any embodiment discussed herein.

An embodiment described herein generally relates to the method of having a tool work bag that is ergonomically designed to assist in the handling of tools, whether for professionals employed in industries like construction and manufacturing, or amateurs. Tool work bags that are attached to the body of a worker can, over time, cause the worker to fatigue (due to the weight of the bag), which can reduce the worker's productivity and decrease the worker's mobility. Further, the tool work bag that is attached to the body of the worker may not possess the capability to hold the tools necessary to complete the task (i.e., the tool is too large or too heavy to carry on the person or in the tool work bag).

An embodiment described herein also provides a method of accessing tools in limited work environments. For example, aerial platform lifts provide a limited amount of square footage within which a worker may operate. The constrained work environment of an aerial platform lift also limits the quantity of tools that are accessible to the worker. Having the tools laying on the floor of the aerial platform lift or hanging form the aerial platform lift can be dangerous to the worker and those below (e.g. when the aerial platform lift is extended).

FIG. **1** is a perspective view of a mountable fabric coupled to an aerial platform lift. In one or more embodiments, a fabric **102** is mounted on an aerial platform lift **104**. The fabric **102** may be mounted on a rail **106**. The fabric **102** may be mounted on a workhorse bench (not shown) or other similar railing. As illustrated in FIG. **1**, the fabric **102** may straddle the rail **106**, such that one end of the fabric **102** hangs on one side of the rail **106** and the other end of the fabric **102** hangs on the other side of the rail **106**. The fabric **102** is mounted on the rail **106** such that the weight of the fabric **102** is evenly distributed to allow the fabric **102** to not fall off and instead balance upon the rail **106**. In one or more embodiments, a tool **108** may be coupled to the fabric **102**. In one or more embodiments, the tool **108** may be inserted into a pocket (described below in connection to FIG. **2**) that is coupled to the fabric **102**.

FIG. **2** is a plan view of a front side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket. The fabric **102** may be made of a durable material, such as Haartz® cloth provided by the Haartz Corporation, nylon fabric, leather, polymer, or other similar material durable enough to hold the tool **108** and other heavy items. In one or more embodiments, the fabric **102** has a front side **202**. The front side **202** is the outer surface of the fabric **102** when the fabric **102** is mounted on the rail **106** (as illustrated in FIG. **1**). The fabric **102** may include a first fabric section **204** and a second fabric section **206** opposite the first fabric section **204**. As described above in connection to FIG. **1**, the first fabric section **204** would hang on one side of the rail **106** and the second fabric section **206** would hang on the other side of the rail **106**.

The first fabric section **204** and the second fabric section **206** are separated by a fabric seam **208**. In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204** is coupled to the fabric seam **208**. In one or more embodiments, the second fabric section **206** is coupled to the fabric seam **208**. The first fabric section **204** may be sewn to the fabric seam **208** using nylon thread. The second fabric section **206** may be sewn to the fabric seam **208** using nylon thread. In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204**, the second fabric section **206**, and the fabric seam **208** may all be one uniform fabric (i.e. one continuous piece of fabric).

The fabric seam **208** may include a rigid material (not shown) that restricts the flexibility of the fabric seam **208**. The rigid material may be detachable or sewn (e.g. using nylon thread) into the fabric seam **208**. In one or more embodiments, the fabric seam **208** is the section of the fabric **102** that is mounted on the rail **106** such that the first fabric section **204** and the second fabric section **206** freely hangs from the rail **106**. The rigid material may be made from durable material such as polymer and/or metal or other similar material.

In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204** includes one or more pockets **210** (illustrated in FIG. **2** as

210*a*, 210*b*, 210*c*, 210*d*, 210*e*, and 210*f*). The pockets **210** may be sewn into the fabric **102** using nylon fabric or other similar material. Although the first fabric section **204** shows a particular number of pockets **210**, the first fabric section **204** may have a greater or lesser number of pockets **210** than illustrated. Further, each pocket **210** may vary in size, shape, and dimension or may all have one uniform dimension. For example, the pocket **210** may have a pocket width ranging from two inches (5.08 cm) to 12.5 inches (31.75 cm) and a pocket length ranging from four inches (10.16 cm) to 7.5 inches (19.05 cm). The pockets **210** may be made from the same material as the fabric **102**. In one or more embodiments, the pockets **210** hold the tool **108** or other similar items. In one or more embodiments, the pockets **210** would be positioned on the interior side of the aerial platform lift **104** such that if the tools **108** were to fall from the pocket **210**, the tools **108** would fall onto the floor of the aerial platform lift and onto those workers that may be below (i.e., when the aerial platform lift **104** is extended).

The first fabric section **204** may include a first fabric end **212**. The first fabric end **212** may include a plurality of hollow notches **214** (illustrated in FIG. **2** as **214***a*, **214***b*, **214***c*, **214***d*, **214***e*, **214***f*, **214***g*, and **214***h*). The hollow notches **214** may be used to hang the tools **108**. The hollow notches **214** may be reinforced by brass eyelets **216** (illustrated in FIG. **2** as **216***a*, **216***b*, **216***c*, **216***d*, **216***e*, **216***f*, **216***g*, **216***h*) or other similar material.

The first fabric end **212** may include a first locking mechanism **218** (not visible in FIG. **2**, but illustrated in FIG. **3**). The first locking mechanism **218** may be made from such material as Velcro® provided by Velcro Industries B.V., or any similar material. The first locking mechanism **218** may be coupled to the fabric **102**. The first locking mechanism may be sewn to the fabric **102** using nylon thread. The first locking mechanism **218** may include snap buttons (not shown).

In one or more embodiments, the second fabric section **206** includes a second fabric end **220** opposite the first fabric end **212**. The second fabric end **220** may include second locking mechanism **222**. The second locking mechanism **222** may be made from such material as Velcro ® provided by Velcro Industries B.V., or any similar material. The second locking mechanism may be coupled to the fabric **102**. The second locking mechanism may be sewn to the fabric **102** using nylon thread. The second locking mechanism **222** may include snap buttons (not shown). The first locking mechanism **218** made from a metal alloy. The second locking mechanism **222** may include a magnet.

In one or more embodiments, the second fabric section **206** includes a detachable transparent pocket **224**. The lining of the detachable transparent pocket **224** may be made from the same or similar material as the fabric **102**. The transparent portion of the detachable transparent pocket **224** may be made from transparent or see-through material, such as for example, **30**-gauge durable polish plastic, to allow the worker to visually see the contents housed in the detachable transparent pocket **224**. For example, the detachable transparent pocket **224** may be used to hold blueprints, and thus it is more efficient to be able to access the blueprints visually while they remain in the detachable transparent pocket **224**, instead of having to repeatedly remove the blue prints from the detachable transparent pocket **224**.

FIG. **3** is a plan view of a rear side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket. In one or more embodiments, the fabric **102** has a rear side **302**. The rear side **302** is the inner surface of the fabric **102** when the fabric **102** is mounted on the rail **106** (as illustrated in FIG. **1**). In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204** includes a first fabric side **304**. In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204** includes a second fabric side **306** opposite the first fabric side **304**. The first fabric side **304** may include a first set of snap buttons **308** (illustrated in FIG. **3** as **308***a*, **308***b*, **308***c*, and **308***d*) positioned along the first fabric side **304**. The second fabric side **306** may include a plurality of snap buttons **308** (illustrated as **308***e*, **308***f*, **308***g*, and **308***h*).

In one or more embodiments, the second fabric section **206** may include a third fabric side **310**. The second fabric section **206** may include a fourth fabric side **312** opposite the third fabric side **310**. The third fabric side **310** may include a third set of snap buttons **308** (illustrated in FIG. **3** as **308***i*, **308***j*, **308***k*, and **308***l*). The fourth fabric side **312** may include a fourth set of snap buttons **308** (illustrated in FIG. **3** as **308***m*, **308***n*, **308***o*, and **308***p*).

When the fabric **102** is mounted on the rail **106** along the fabric seam **208**, the fabric **102** folds and hangs freely over the rail **106** (as illustrated in FIG. **1**). In this position, the first locking mechanism **218** may couple to the second locking mechanism **222**. Coupling the first locking mechanism **218** to the second locking mechanism **222** may secure the fabric **102** to the rail **106**. To keep the fabric **102** secured to the rail **106**, the first set of snap buttons **308** may couple to the third set of snap buttons **308**. For example, when the fabric **102** is mounted to the rail **106** and folded (as illustrated in FIG. **1**), button **308***a* couples to button **308***l*, button **308***b* couples to button **308***k*, button **308***c* couples to button **308***j*, and button **308***d* couples to button **308***i*. The fabric **102** is further secured to the rail **106** when the second set of snap buttons **308** is coupled to the fourth set of snap buttons **308**. For example, when the fabric **102** is mounted to the rail **106** and folded (as illustrated in FIG. **1**), button **308***e* couples to button **308***p*, button **308***f* couples to button **308***o*, button **308***g* couples to button **308***n*, and button **308***h* couples to button **308***m*.

FIG. **4** is a plan view of a front side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of rigid strips, a plurality of pockets, and a detachable transparent pocket. FIG. **5** is a plan view of a rear side of a mountable fabric having a plurality of rigid strips, a plurality of pockets, and a detachable transparent pocket. In one or more embodiments, the first fabric section **204** includes a plurality of rigid strips **402** (illustrated by the dashed lines **402***a*, **402***b*, **402***c*, and **402***d*). In one or more embodiments, the second fabric section **206** may include a plurality of rigid strips **402** (illustrated by dashed lines **402***e*, **402***f*, **402***g*, and **402***h*). The rigid strips **402** may be sewn into the material of the fabric **102** using nylon thread. The rigid strips **402** may be detachable from the fabric **102**. For example, the rigid strips **402** may be coupled to the fabric **102** using Velcro® provided by Velcro Industries B.V., or any similar material. Adding the rigid strips **402** to the fabric **102** adds additional support to fabric **102** for holding tools **108**. For example, the rigid strips **402** braces the fabric **102** such that the tools **108** won't fall out due to the weight of the tool **108**. In addition, the rigid strips **402** also keeps the fabric **102** from falling off the rail **106**.

FIG. **6** is a profile view of a mountable fabric having a plurality of pockets and a detachable transparent pocket mounted on a rail. As discussed above in connection with FIGS. **1-5**, the fabric **102** is mounted on the rail **106**. In one or more embodiments, the fabric seam **208** is positioned along the rail **106** such that the first fabric section **204** and the second fabric section **206** are able to hang freely. The length and the width of the first fabric section **204** and the second fabric section **206** may be adjusted to compensate for

weight distribution. For example, the first fabric section **204** may have a length of 27 inches (68.58 cm.) and the second fabric section may have a length of 24 inches (60.96 cm.). The width of the fabric **102** (i.e., the width of the fabric seam **208**) may have a measurement of 30.75 inches (78.11 cm.)

FIG. **7** is a flow chart of the method of mounting a fabric onto a rail. The process includes mounting a fabric (such as fabric **102**) onto a rail (such as rail **106**), the fabric (such as fabric **102**) having a first fabric section (such as first fabric section **204**) having a first fabric end (such as first fabric end **212**), a second fabric section (such as second fabric section **206**) having a second fabric end (such as second fabric end **220**) opposite the first fabric end (such as first fabric end **212**), a fabric seam (such as fabric seam **208**) coupled between the first fabric section (such as first fabric section **204**) and the second fabric section (such as second fabric section **206**), a pocket (such as pocket **210**) coupled to the first fabric section (such as first fabric section **204**), a first locking mechanism (such as first locking mechanism **218**) secured to the first fabric end (such as first fabric end **212**), and the second locking mechanism (such as second locking mechanism **222**) secured to the second fabric end (such as second fabric end **220**) (block **702**). Aligning the fabric seam (such as fabric seam **208**) along the rail (such as rail **106**) (block **704**). Folding the fabric (such as fabric **102**) along the fabric seam (such as fabric seam **208**) (block **706**). Coupling the first locking mechanism (such as first locking mechanism **218**) to the second locking mechanism (such as second locking mechanism **222**) (block **708**). Inserting a tool (such as tool **108**) into the pocket (such as pocket **210**).

In one aspect, the apparatus includes a mountable fabric having a first fabric section having a first fabric end. The mountable fabric has a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end. A fabric seam is coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section. At least one pocket is coupled to the first fabric section. A first locking mechanism is secured to the first fabric end. A second locking mechanism is secured to the second fabric end. When the mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam the first locking mechanism is couplable to the second locking mechanism.

Implementation may include one or more of the following. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the first fabric section. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the second fabric section end. The second fabric section may include a detachable transparent pocket. The fabric may be rigid. The first fabric section may include a first fabric section having an array of first fabric side snap buttons. The first fabric section may include a second fabric side having an array of second fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a third fabric side having an array of third fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a fourth side having an array of fourth fabric side snap buttons. The fabric may be folded along the first fabric seam. The first fabric side snap buttons may couple to the corresponding third fabric side snap buttons.

In one aspect, a method includes mounting a fabric onto a rail. The fabric having a first fabric section having a first fabric end. The fabric has a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end. The fabric has a fabric seam coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section. The fabric has at least one pocket coupled to the first fabric section. The fabric has a first locking mechanism secured to the first fabric end. The fabric has a second locking mechanism secured to the second fabric end. The fabric seam is aligned along the rail. The fabric is folded along the fabric seam. The first locking mechanism is coupled to the second locking mechanism. A tool may be inserted into the pocket.

Implementation may include one or more of the following. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the first fabric section. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the second fabric section end. The second fabric section may include a detachable transparent pocket. The fabric may be rigid. The first fabric section may include a first fabric section having an array of first fabric side snap buttons. The first fabric section may include a second fabric side having an array of second fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a third fabric side having an array of third fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a fourth side having an array of fourth fabric side snap buttons. The fabric may be folded along the first fabric seam. The first fabric side snap buttons may couple to the corresponding third fabric side snap buttons.

In one aspect, the system may include an aerial platform having a rail. A mountable fabric is coupled to the rail. The mountable fabric has a first fabric section having a first fabric end. The mountable fabric has a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end. The mountable fabric has a fabric seam coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section. The mountable fabric has at least one pocket coupled to the first fabric section. The mountable fabric has a first locking mechanism secured to the first fabric end. The mountable fabric has a second locking mechanism secured the second fabric end. The mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam and the first locking mechanism is coupled to the second locking mechanism.

Implementation may include one or more of the following. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the first fabric section. At least one rigid strip may be coupled to the second fabric section end. The second fabric section may include a detachable transparent pocket. The fabric may be rigid. The first fabric section may include a first fabric section having an array of first fabric side snap buttons. The first fabric section may include a second fabric side having an array of second fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a third fabric side having an array of third fabric side snap buttons. The second fabric section may include a fourth side having an array of fourth fabric side snap buttons. The fabric may be folded along the first fabric seam. The first fabric side snap buttons may couple to the corresponding third fabric side snap buttons.

The operations of the flow diagrams are described with references to the systems/apparatus shown in the block diagrams. However, it should be understood that the operations of the flow diagrams could be performed by embodiments of systems and apparatus other than those discussed with reference to the block diagrams, and embodiments discussed with reference to the systems/apparatus could perform operations different than those discussed with reference to the flow diagrams.

The word "coupled" herein means a direct connection or an indirect connection.

The text above describes one or more specific embodiments of a broader invention. The invention also is carried out in a variety of alternate embodiments and thus is not limited to those described here. The foregoing description of an embodiment of the invention has been presented for the purposes of illustration and description. It is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise form disclosed. Many modifications and variations are possible in light of the above teaching. It is intended that the scope of

the invention be limited not by this detailed description, but rather by the claims appended hereto.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for holding a tool comprising:

a mountable fabric having:

a first fabric section having a first fabric end;

a second fabric section having a second fabric end opposite the first fabric end;

a fabric seam coupled between the first fabric section and the second fabric section;

a plurality of rigid strips coupled to the first fabric section; and

a plurality of rigid strips coupled to the second fabric section;

at least one pocket coupled to the first fabric section;

a first locking mechanism secured to the first fabric end; and

a second locking mechanism secured to the second fabric end;

wherein when the mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam the first locking mechanism is couplable to the second locking mechanism.

2. The apparatus of claim **1** further comprising the fabric seam comprising a rigid strip coupled between the first fabric section and to the second fabric section.

3. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein second fabric section includes a detachable transparent pocket.

4. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the fabric seam is rigid.

5. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the first fabric section includes:

a first fabric side having an array of first fabric side snap buttons;

a second fabric side having an array of second fabric side snap buttons; and

wherein the second fabric section includes:

a third fabric side having an array of third fabric side snap buttons; and

a fourth fabric side having an array of fourth fabric side snap buttons.

6. The apparatus of claim **5** wherein when the mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam, the first fabric side snap buttons couples to the corresponding third fabric side snap buttons.

7. The apparatus of claim **5** wherein when the mountable fabric is folded along the fabric seam, the second fabric side snap buttons couples to the corresponding fourth fabric side snap buttons.

* * * * *